(b) if so, to which countries of the world alongwith quantity and the monetary value, from 1997 to 1999, country-wise; and

(c) what amount of subsidy has been given to meat exporters for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Figures of India's country-wise exports of meat are available in the "Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India', published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta and are available in the Parliament Library. India's total exports of meat during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as follows:—

Qty: Tonnes

Value: Rs. crores

	Quantity	Value
1997-98	184440.0	794.36
1998-99	162840.3	771.77
1999-2000* (April-August, 99)	58022.1	252.99

Source. DGCI & S, Calcutta
*Provisional

(c) The following amount of subsidy was provided by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Develpment Authority (APEDA) to exporters of meat during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000:—

	Subsidy (in Rs. lakhs)
1997-98	37.35
1998-99	13.58
1999-2000	39.85

Calculation of Wholesale Price Index

5185. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there has been a change in the designation of the base year and the basket of commodities for the calculation of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI);

(b) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(c) how has it made an impact on the computation of the inflation and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A new wholesale price index series with base year 1993-94 and new basket of commodities has been introduced recently.

(b) The new Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series (Base: 1993-94=100) has been introduced with effect from week ending 1.4.2000. This has been done on the basis of recommendations made by a Working Group set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.R. Hashim, then Member, Planning Commission. The recommendations were accepted by the Government and Technical Advisory Committee on Prices and Cost of Living. The new WPI series has a total number of 435 items with 1918 quotations. Weights at the major group levels viz "Primary Articles,' "Fuel, Power, Light & Lubricants' and "manufactured Products' are 22.02%, 14.23% and 63.75% respectively as compared to 32.30%, 10.66% and 57.04% for the same major Groups in the earlier WPI series (Base: 1981-82).

(c) The methodology for computation of inflation has not changed. A table showing comparative rates of inflation on the basis of current series (revised) and earlier series is given below:-

Year	Rate of Inflation (percentags) Ealier Series (Base: 1981-82)	Current Series (Base: 1993-94)
1994-95	10.9	12.8
1995-96	7.7	7.8
1996-97	6.4	4.7
1997-98	4.8	4.3
1998-99	6.8	6.0
1999-2000(P)	3.0	2.9

(P)—Provisional